

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ARA-06 CU-02  
/088 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKWARD:DHT  
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON  
EUR/CE:LHEICHLER

-----091849Z 011020 /53

R 090122Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CVIS, SCUL, GE

SUBJECT: US-GDR RELATIONS: REVIEW OF PROBLEMS

REF: BERLIN 5443; BERLIN 5696; BERLIN 5686; BERLIN 5671;  
BERLIN 5674

1. EUR/CE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HEICHLER CALLED IN GDR DCM  
APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN RECENTLY.  
IN ADDITION, HEICHLER PRESENTED A NON-PAPER ON  
HUMANITARIAN CASES DRAWING FROM BERLIN 5443 AND INCLUDING  
THE NAMES OF THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED IN THAT MESSAGE.

2. HUMANITARIAN CASES: AFTER PRESENTING NON-PAPER,  
HEICHLER AND GDR DESK OFFICER STRESSED INTEREST AND  
CONCERN OF USG AND US RELATIVES ABOUT THE LACK OF  
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PROGRESS IN RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN CASES. ELM ASKED  
WHETHER THE LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WAS THE SAME AS PRESENTED  
BY EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN. WHEN TOLD THAT IT WAS, ELM  
SAID THAT HE COULD ADD NOTHING TO MFA'S RESPONSE TO  
EMBASSY IN BERLIN AND THAT GDR POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN.  
IN REGARD TO GDR CITIZENS WISHING TO MAKE TEMPORARY  
VISITS TO THE US, ELM SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO THE GDR

EXCLUSIVELY TO DECIDE ON THESE CASES AND THAT THESE WERE STRICTLY MATTERS INVOLVING THE GDR'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ELM WAS REMINDED THAT US RELATIVES WERE ALSO INVOLVED; THE USG COULD NOT IGNORE THEIR INTERESTS AND WE CONSIDER THAT IT IS THE USG'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IN THESE CASES. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT ELM WILL DO MORE THAN TO FORWARD TEXT OF NON-PAPER TO EAST BERLIN, AS GDR EMBASSY HERE CONTINUES TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES WHEN RAISED BY THE DEPARTMENT. END COMMENT.

3. PUERTO RICO: HEICHLER NOTED THAT THE REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED DURING CASTRO'S VISIT TO BERLIN DISPLEASED THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN STRAINED THE LAST TIME THE GDR CALLED FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO. SUCH STATEMENTS, HEICHLER CONTINUED, COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ELM, WHO WAS CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THIS TOPIC, RESPONDED SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY THAT HE HAD NOT READ THE COMMUNIQUE THOROUGHLY AND COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT.

4. FILM RETROSPECTIVE: HEICHLER EXPRESSED THE DEPARTMENT'S DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE GDR FELT UNABLE TO AGREE TO US FILM RETROSPECTIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GDR PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED BILATERAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, HEICHLER SAID WE HOPE THAT THE GDR WILL RECONSIDER ITS DECISION ON THE RETROSPECTIVE. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. IREX GRANTEE JOAN HOLMES: HEICHLER NOTED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE HOLMES CASE, ADDING THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE GDR'S DECISION NOT TO ALLOW MS. HOLMES TO REMAIN IN EAST BERLIN UNTIL HER PROJECT WAS COMPLETED. HEICHLER ADDED THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION WITH MFA APRIL 11 AND REQUESTED THAT ELM INFORM BERLIN OF OUR INTEREST IN THIS CASE.

6. EMBASSY LIBRARIAN: ELM WAS TOLD THAT THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT WERE DISAPPOINTED BY THE CONTINUED DELAY IN OBTAINING THE SERVICES OF THE GDR LIBRARIAN HIRED TO WORK AT THE EMBASSY LIBRARY, AND THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ELM'S PASSING THIS ON TO BERLIN.

7. MFN: AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, ELM ASKED WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE OF ANY POSSIBLE FORWARD MOVEMENT IN REGARD TO THE GRANTING OF MFN TO ADDITIONAL

COUNTRIES. ELM SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THIS MIGHT BE UNDER CONSIDERATION. HEICHLER RESPONDED THAT WE WERE UNAWARE OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.

8. BEIL VISIT: ELM RAISED BEIL'S FORTHCOMING VISIT BRIEFLY, NOTING THAT DR. GEYER WOULD PROBABLY BE IN THE GDR DELEGATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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